BAKEMONOGATARI

8

OH!GREAT

Original Story:
NISIOISIN

Original Character
Design: VOFAN

NADEKO SNAKE

BAKEMONOGATARI

OH!GREAT

ORIGINAL STORY:

NISIOISIN

8

ORIGINAL CHARACTER
DESIGN: VOFAN

THE STORY SO FAR

Nadeko Sengoku, a girl in the grip of a "snake," was searching for a way to undo the serpent's curse that causes her suffering, but nothing was working. She is then reunited with Koyomi, the older brother of one of her elementary-school classmates. He agrees to help her, and they seem to make good progress toward dispelling the curse...but when the situation takes a sudden turn, they come to realize something: There were two "snakes."

MAIN CHARACTERS

Nadeko Sengoku

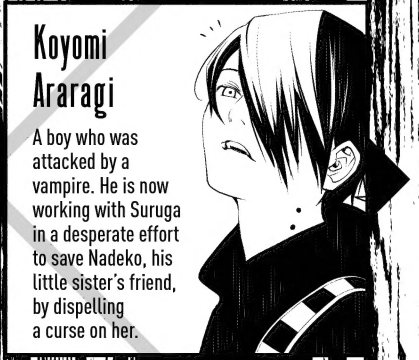
A girl in the grip of a "snake." She reunites with Koyomi as she searches for a way to rid herself of the pain she suffers while under the snake's curse.

Mèmè Oshino

An expert on aberrations who has made the ruins of a former cram school his home. The man Koyomi goes to for advice whenever he happens upon an aberration.

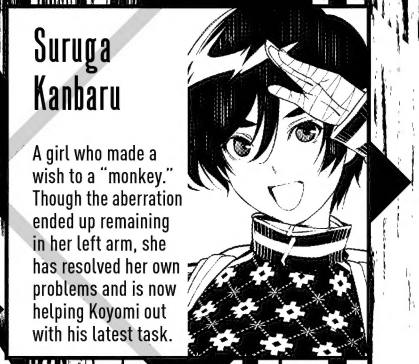
Tsubasa Hanekawa

Koyomi's classmate who was once bewitched by a "cat." An honor student that no honor could sufficiently describe, and a class president among class presidents.



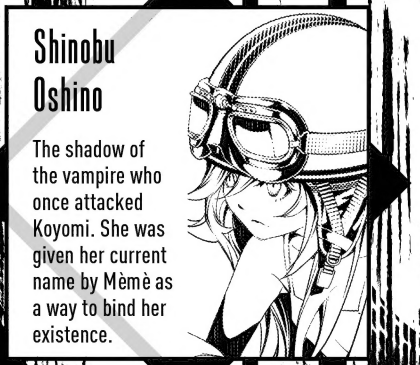
Koyomi Araragi

A boy who was attacked by a vampire. He is now working with Suruga in a desperate effort to save Nadeko, his little sister's friend, by dispelling a curse on her.



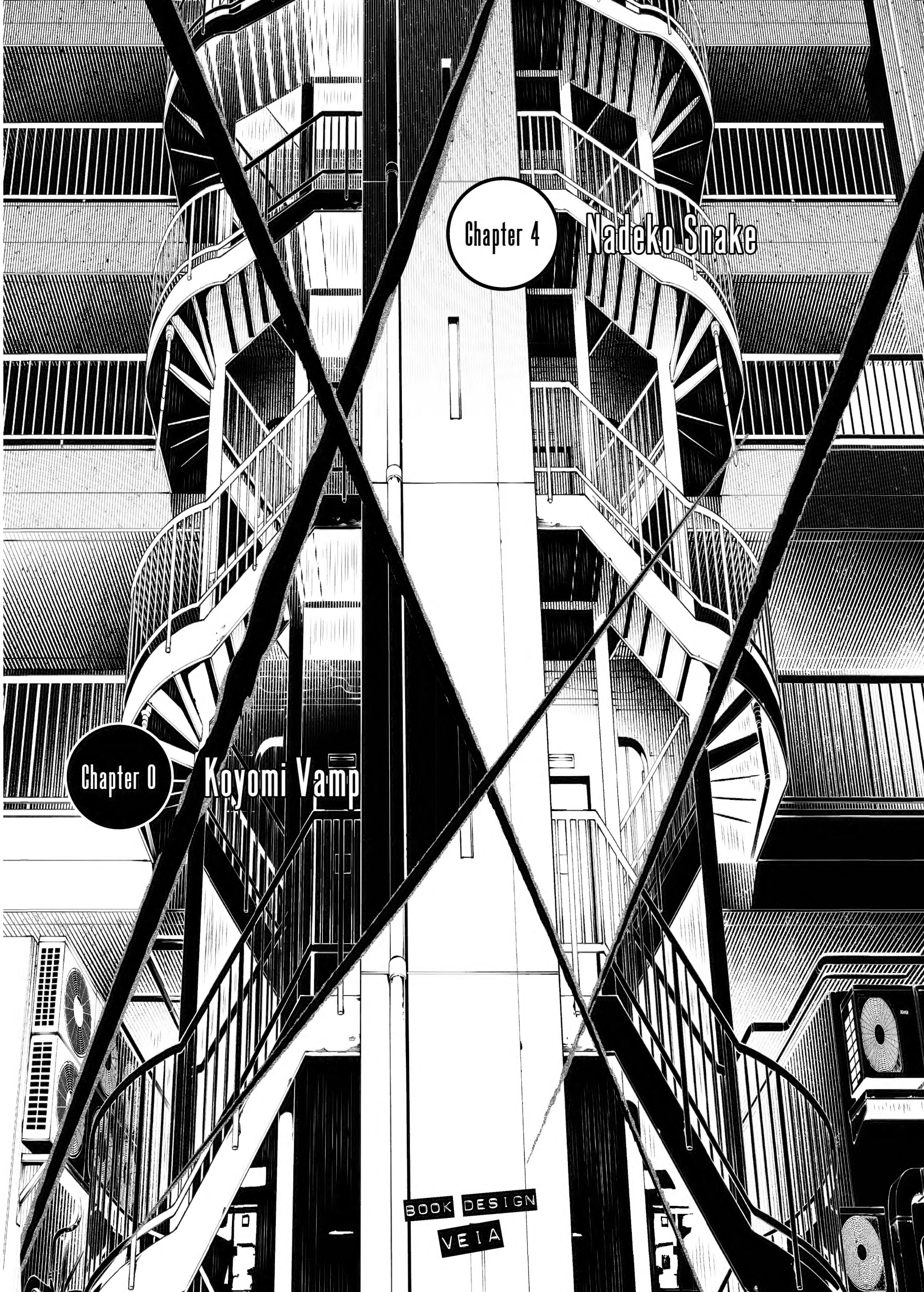
Suruga Kanbaru

A girl who made a wish to a "monkey." Though the aberration ended up remaining in her left arm, she has resolved her own problems and is now helping Koyomi out with his latest task.



Shinobu Oshino

The shadow of the vampire who once attacked Koyomi. She was given her current name by Mèmè as a way to bind her existence.


Chapter 4
Nadeko Snake
Chapter 0
Koyomi Vamp
BOOK DESIGN
VEIA

ｽｽｽｽｽｽ

SEN-GOKU !!

SHIT ...!!

ZSH

Catch up with me, Araragi.

KAN-BARU!

I'M COUNT-ING ON YOU!

WHOOSH

Yep! I've got this!

THWAP

THWAP

THWAP

THWAPP

COME WHEN YOU'RE DONE CHANG-ING!!

THAT'S WHY I SAID YOU CAN'T WEAR SOMETHING LIKE THAT HERE IN THE MOUNTAINS!!

There were so many hints I should have picked up on... But I didn't notice any of them until just now...

There were two!!

There wasn't just one Jagirinawa ...!!

Dam-mit...!

They covered *both arms and both legs.*

Like the scale markings on Sengoku's body—

It's not as if it came flying down from the sky... It has to have *crawled* along the ground before it began winding itself up her legs.

No matter how much of an aberration it is—this thing is still a "snake."

...*structurally* impossible...!!

One snake wrapping around both her arms and both her legs would be...

I needed to realize that even if I couldn't see it.

One snake: Can only wrap around one arm and one leg.

Two snakes needed to wrap around both arms and both legs.

You can't make a rope with a single strand. You need *at least two*.

In essence, the Jagirinawa isn't a snake—it's a metaphor for a rope.

There's also what Oshino was telling me before...

JUMP

BONUS

Gotcha!

GRAB

ZSSHH

You...
Hey...!

Calm down!

Stop strug-gling!

Agh!

...It's *here*...

Well ...

I guess that goes without saying, but...

Urgh...

SLITHER

GRAB

You should be able to get in its way.

I think you can do it, Araragi.

GRRRCH

This is my first time touching a snake, okay?

I'm the indoorsy type...

It feels like I'm holding onto smooth mucus...

Gross ...

SLITHER

In a sense, an aberration is *precisely* what you are, Araragi.

Also, bad things are swirling around that place now.

The Jagirinawa has manifested itself due to the effects of these *bad things*— you can use those things in a similar way.

All you need to do is get *them* on your side.

BWOP

SCURRY

SCURRY

SCURRY

KRAK

KREAK

KREAK

...will be en-hanced ...!!

Even your vampiric *blood*...

That's pretty much it.

SHHNP...

Sengoku caught more than ten snakes on her own...

I'm her "big brother," right? If I can't handle something like this, then I'm—

PLLRCH

SQUISH

Agh—

SQUISH

GA-CHOMP

GUH...
AH...!

AAH! I-IT IT HUUUURTS ...!

IT...

IT BIT ME ...?!

ROLL

ROLL

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

BHAAH!

ROLL

ゴロリ

Urgh
...

PHEW

What happened to the snake ...?!

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE

The person who cursed Sengoku is *connected to her* by way of the tunnel that is this curse.

Ultimately, to curse and to be cursed are both *the same act*.

When one is cursed, two holes are dug.

THROB

Which means that next...the snake will naturally head for—

Sengoku didn't die... So the curse failed on *her side*.

DRIP

Ow!

The wound— it's not healing?!

No...

It's actually getting worse... It's melting.

Poison ...!!

So the poison is working faster than my body's ability to heal itself...!!

...

Even so...
ZHKK
BOOOM

BWOOF

I won't let it get to its destination!!!

WHOA!

BWIKK

Sengoku just *happened* to know me, but it's different for this other girl—she doesn't have a single way to protect herself, and I don't see how I'll be able to save her!!

The snake is heading toward the person who cursed Sengoku.

FLUTTER

FLUTTER

FLUTTER

BA-BA-BAM

ZSSHH

TWINING

SLITHER

There.

!!

POP

HA

GA-CHOMP

FWAP

BWOOMF

BRRRIP

BRRCH
BRRCH BRRCH

ZMPH

GA-GRITCH

Snake.

Sorry ...

...but you're coming with me.

HOLD PTT

So, which will happen first? Will the poison circulate through-out my body...?

Or will you run out of stamina?

It's a test of endur-ance!!

GRITCH

GRITCH

GRRRK

THUD

THUD

THUD

THUD

THUD

GRRRK

...!

Sorry... I'm so sorry, Sen-goku.

I don't even want you to forgive me.

I betrayed you.

I'm here trying to save the very person that tried to kill you.

Of all the things I could be doing...

It's ...

It's so... pow-erful, but...

DRUP

BSSHT

GRRK

I think I'll be fine...!!

If this is all it's got...

DZSH

ZSH

Gah ...

Graah ...!

SHAKE

SHAKE

SPPT

Huh ?!

Whoa !

KRASH

ドッ ドッ

?!

Wha ...?

?!

ZSSHH

JOLT

ZMMP

Gah ...!

BLUHP

SPLAT SPLAT

BSSSHT

Graagh!

SHHK

SHHK

Gah ...!

SHHK

SHHK

Aagh!

SHHK

Eugh!

SHHK

SHHK

PLUP

SHHK

SHHK

SHHK

GRSST

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

...And it's not just one of them...

There's a lot of them ...?!

Are these a snake's fangs ...?

No ...!!

It's... *something* sharper... the kind of sharpness you only get with metal...

Like a blade—

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

Ha haa.

Well, I don't think this has anything to do with the problem you're dealing with now, but...

...

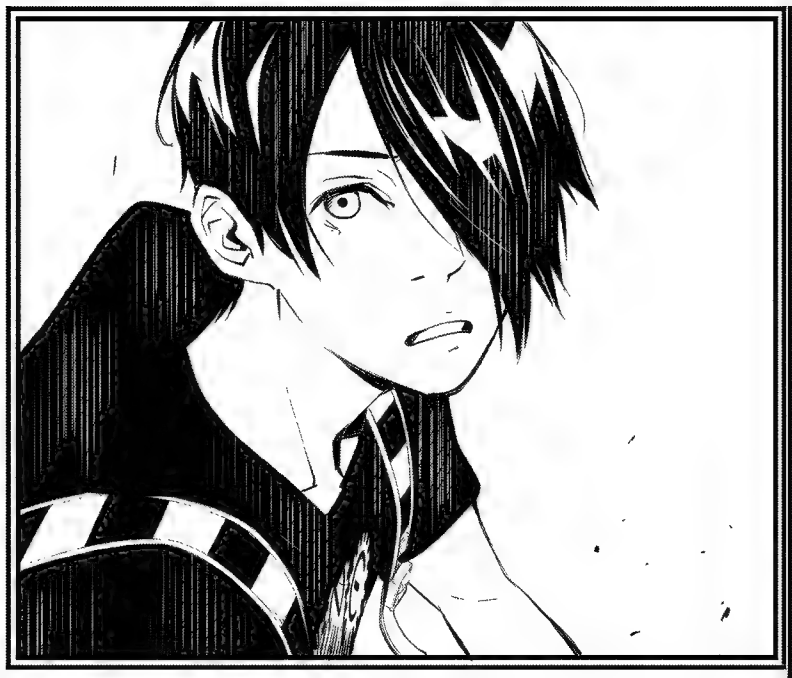
No, wait... Is this...?

There is one more thing.

One more reason why people see snakes as holy.

It's because human bodies have had snakes on them.

Do you know where, Araragi?



And don't even think about making a dirty joke and saying between our legs.

HURK

ギクッ

That wouldn't apply to half the population, anyway.

A *rope* that connects this world to the next.

We all come into this world attached to one, right?

It's when we're born.

The thought was that snakes...

...have the power to *draw our souls* into this world.

BRSSH

SPLISH

SPLISH

SPLISH

An aberration that draws souls...
...into this world from the great beyond.

You should also keep that in mind before you act, Araragi.

...gathered at that shrine right now.

What's more, there're all those *bad things*...

Haah ...

ZSSHH

Haah ...

ZSSHH

ZSSHH

Those snakes stand as the greatest rivals of gods in religions around the world, and that's not just for show.

Haah ...

Haah ...

Haah ...

Snakes are scary.

Oshino said...

...that I need to take the *bad things* gathered around this shrine...and get them on my side.

Haah...

Haah...

Haah...

STAGGER

BONES

Arg!

BOOM

But what the hell is this crap?! These assholes totally have it out for me!!

THWAK

ZWOOSH

SHNK

Grah!

Urgh!

SHNK

Gah!

Ghht!

SHNK

SHNK

Haakh
!

Kuh
—

3

I did that so I could get you jerks in one place even if I can't see you!!

SHLRRK

...You all should know some-thing, though...

I let you stab me just now.

GRIP

ヨヨヨヨヨ

TWIRRL

THWOPPP

ノポポポ

KA-KLOP

ノポポポ

KA-KLOP

ノーニッ

SNATCH

ビシャ

SPLECH

ビシャ

SPLECH

…

TWITCH

TWITCH

I can feel it.

I can't see it, but ...

... It's looking at me.

There's nothing, not even malice, in its eyes.

It's just... watching.

Watching my actions.

Is it...

...trying to under-stand me?

Aberra-tions are grounded in reason.

Snake.

What do I look like... in your eyes?

I must appear to be the most curious of creatures, don't I?

After all...we already dispelled the curse on Sengoku. So...there's no reason for me to be here now.

I get it. Even I...

...don't really know what I'm doing here.

Oshino—he said the same thing.

Not to recklessly charge into *their territory.*

That *doing so is nothing but an act of aggression.*

That I'd be the *perpetrator* here.

ボス

BSST

It really is irresponsible to be kind to everyone.

I know.

It feels so pointless to be indebted to him.

I know that.

You really do save everyone you possibly can, don't you?

Yeah, yeah—

I get it already.

There's a wall of irresponsibility, you see.

I know—that I shouldn't be recklessly wandering beyond those boundaries.

What I'm able to take personal responsibility for.

What's within my reach.

That in the end, *it's not for anyone's sake.*

I know all of that.

That saving someone when it's *not for their sake*... is nothing more than *poison*.

Ah...

That's easily my bound-aries.

Yeah— that's right. Nadeko Sengoku— is my little sister's friend.

—And she's already been saved.

GRSH GRSH GRSH SPLATCH

KRIK
KRIK
ZSSHH!
ZSH
ZMP
KRAK

TWING

Nadeko Sengoku may be within *my boundaries*...

But even then —

That doesn't make her any different from a complete stranger, does it?

...but I'd forgotten all about her until just now.

It's ground-ed in reason.

Then it's fine.

So saving Nadeko Sengoku's friend, an actual complete stranger...

I saved Nadeko Sengoku, who's practically a complete stranger to me.

...should be totally fine!!

THUD

...!

SPLIRCH

Snake.

SPLIRCH

SPLAT SPLAT

ZAKK

Don't give me that look...

Like you're con-founded by what you see.

Some humans can be more persistent than snakes, okay?

then what's so wrong about going and saving someone for my own sake?

If this was never for anyone's sake to begin with,

People will go and get saved on their own.

Either way...

"In for a penny, in for a pound," right?

MY SENIOR ARARAGI !!

ZSH

ZSH

ZSH

ZSH

BOOM

But—the snake can poison her...!! What should we do? How do we fight...?

Right...! The power of Kanbaru's "hand" will be a big help!!

Kan-baru ?!

MY DEAR SENIOR ARA-RAGI.

FOR-GIVE ME.

GRNCH

GA-KRAK

?!

SNAP SNAP KRAK

BA-KRAK

POP

BWOOP

PLOK

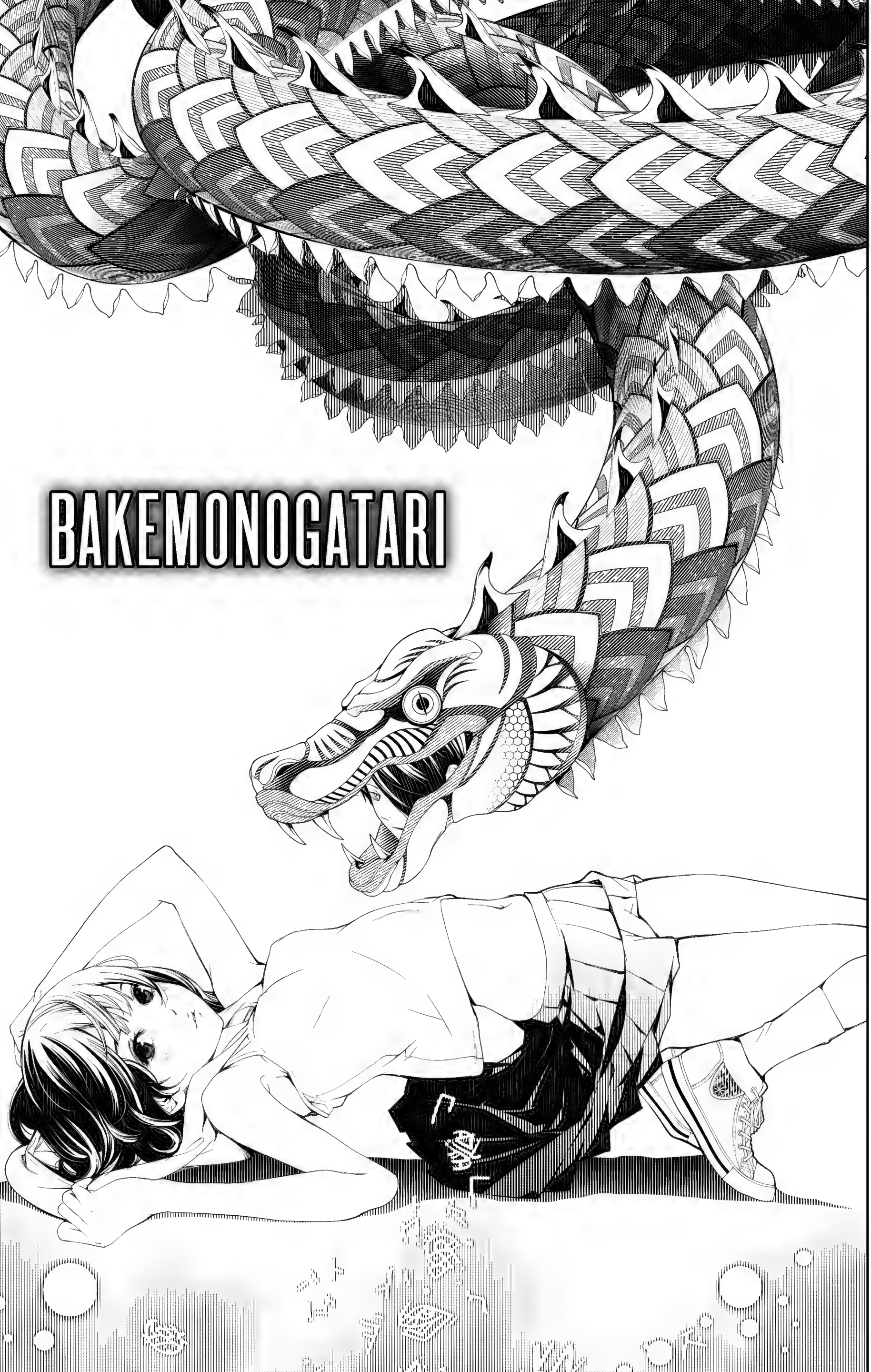
HUH?

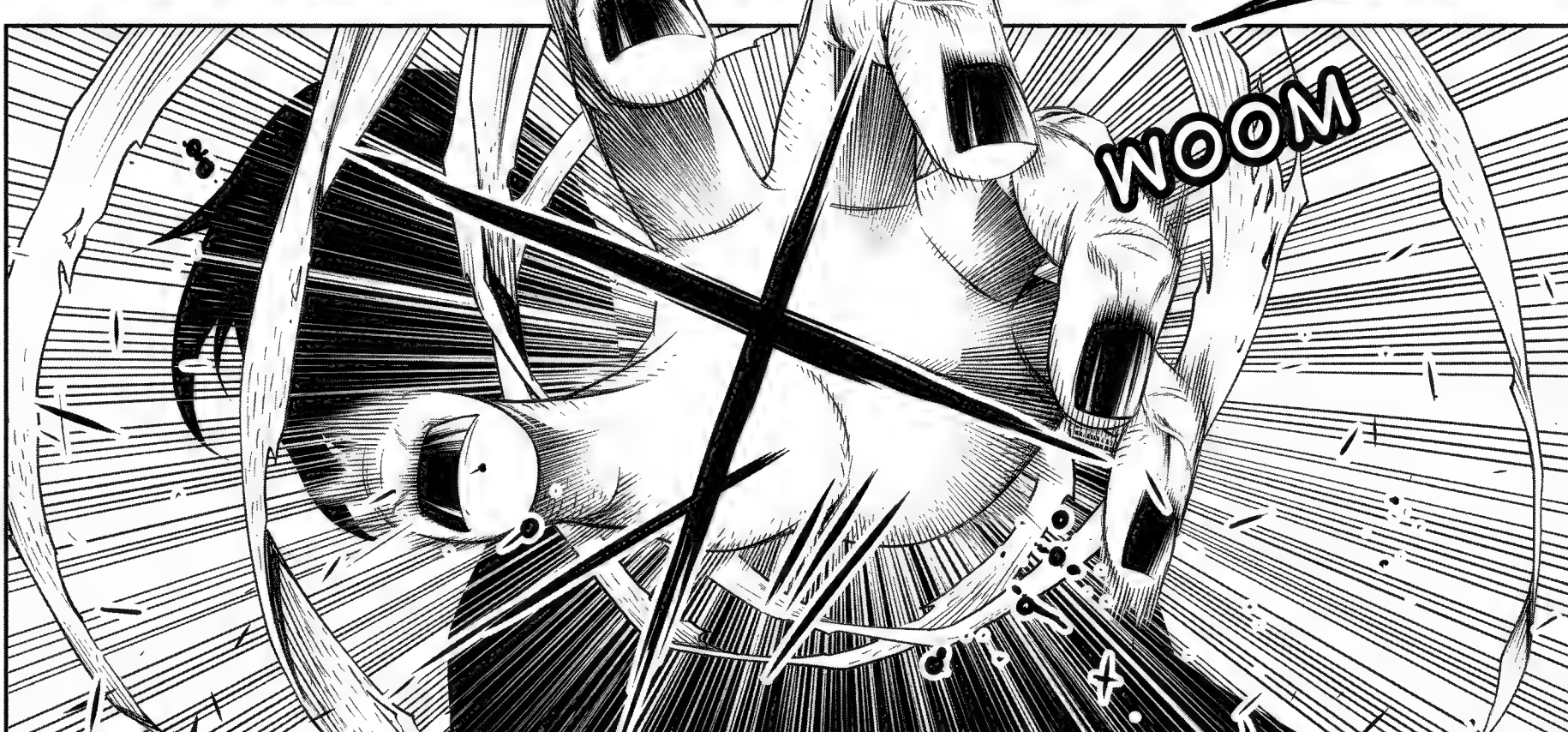
One of my molars came out of my nose.

Huh?

Huh?

BAKEMONOGATARI




WOOM

OOAHH!

GRUNCH

IBA-KRAKK

KRAK

KRAK

KRAK

KLAAANG

Buh!

What's ...

...happening ...?!

Wh...

Khaah!

110キロ KRAK

110キロ KRAK

110キロ KRAK

—Don't tell me...

Are the *bad things* here... having some sort of negative effect on Kanbaru through her hand...?!

My senior Araragi.

Snakes may be temperamental creatures—but they're *cowards.*

So long as a human doesn't approach one and try to attack it...

...it's not going to do anything on its own...!!

It's like they say—"An undisturbed god delivers no curse," right?

And I think—that goes for any snake, even a god.

No...

But...!

...!

Please ...

I'm begging you— my senior.

Please don't try to rescue the wrong person ...!!

Huh?

What?! Big Brother Koyomi?!

What about the ritual to lift my curse—?!

!!

...

Ngh.

TWITCH

Oh.

The marks.

They're gone...

This pattern has been deleted.

OK

Delete

PLIP

PLIP

PLIP

PLIP

PLIPP

DRIP

DRIP

DRIP

P-PLIP

PLIP

PLIP

PLIP

PLIP

ZSSHH

Ha haha!

Heh!

Thank you, Big Brother Koyomi ...!!

Thank you...

For saving me.

She ...

... isn't suffering now.

She's no longer in pain.

She can...

...smile now.

I have a feeling that Kanbaru—made the right call.

The situation might have been different if this were spring break.

But to be honest—I don't see how I could beat this snake as I am now.

The poison would eventually make its way through my whole body, and...

...
Phew
...

Sorry, Kan-baru.

I forced you into a terrible role.

I'm really sorry.

I'm sorry...

...whoever it was that sent this snake—wherever you are.

I really am power-less.

CHRRR

CHRR

CHIRP

CHIRP

Can you walk, my senior Araragi?

Yeah...

Sorry...

Please don't apologize. It puts me in an awkward position.

I was so desperate to stop you that I also used up all my strength...

It seems that the snake's poison far outpaced my body's ability to heal itself.

I guess a half-assed aberration like me really doesn't have any chance of defeating an actual aberration.

So...

So close...

Haah...!

Haah...!

Haah...!

Sorry... But let's go straight over to Oshino's building.

Shinobu's there...

I should be able to beat this poison if I have her suck my blood.

All right! Got it!

Are you sure you're okay, though? You really don't seem well to me.

SQUISH

SQUISH

I don't have any feeling in them, though.

Yeah. Seems like I can still move my arms somehow.

SWEAT

SWEAT

SWEAT

SQUISH

SQUISH

Phew... For some reason, I feel better when I'm moving my fingers around...

The pain seems to be fading away from my fingers... I'm really feeling it in my legs, though...

TWITCH

KWIK

KWIK

KWIK

SQUAAASH

Mmh!

I'm...okay... It's not like... it's on purpose...

I...

Hunh ?

If you say no, I'll show no mercy. I don't even care if he's my senior!

What do you want to do?

Do we consider this his reward for a job well done, or no?

I-If it helps him feel better in any way... I'd like to help him, after all...

SEE-SAW

SEE-SAW

And so...

This case came to some-thing of an end.

TUG

TUG

Either way, I personally feel jealous of both of you.

This is not a fair situation. C'mon, my senior! Mine are over here!

There are some parts of it that I still don't understand, though...

YOU'RE GONNA PULL IT OUT OF ITS SOCKET!!

OWWW! STOP YANKING MY ARM SO HARD!

WHAT ARE YOU EVEN TALKING ABOUT?!

I'm sure that the first was the girl who used to be her friend, but...

That has to mean there were two people who cursed Sengoku.

There were two snakes... In other words—

Speculating here would be as useless as shoes on a snake.

It could be the boy Sengoku said she rejected...

To Nadeko Sengoku

If there is someone else—

We're here, my senior Araragi. It's amazing what taxis can do.

SQUISH

SQUISH

Um... Miss Kanbaru? At first...I was told about a simpler ritual.

SQUISH

SQUISH

NO UNAUTHORIZED ENTRY PAST THIS POINT

But then... I guess I went online to look stuff up and got deeper and deeper into it...

...I'm amazed that what was basically child's play could take you out like this...

Still... Considering this was just an occult fad that was making the rounds at some school...

What do you mean, you were told?

Oh... There's a man who specializes in *that kind of thing.*

Um... What was his name again ...?

SQUISH

SQUISH

WARM

WARM

Kaiki.

—I think he said his name... was Mister Kaiki...

!!

KRIK
..

JOLT

Mgh.

...

眼
EYES
!!

!!!

TWIRL

SPLATTER

SPLAT

CHOMP

←STAIRS

PLAT

PLAT

PLAT

DRAAAAAG

化け bake

蛇の NADEKOsnake

8

語 gatari

怪 *gatari*

物 *mono*

NADEKOsnake

8

化 *bake*

BA-BAM

TWIRL

PAK

TUMBLE

ZSH

THP

THP

THP

THP

THP

WAKE UP, KOYO-MIIII !!

SNAP

THKK

Heh.

Which is what you might expect me to say, but not this time! I'm not someone who'd allow himself to be subjected to such techniques and not do anything about it!!

Here's the epilogue—or maybe, the punchline to this story.

The next day, I was roused from bed as usual by my little sisters Karen and Tsukihi—

...

AH!

THWOMP

BA-BAM

BA-BAM

BA-BA-BAM

OHM* PALM!!!

SHAKK

SHAKK

BA-BAM

SLIDE

TWITCH

SHAKK SHAKK SHAKK SHAKK SHAKK SHAKK

*The large insect-like creatures from *Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind*.

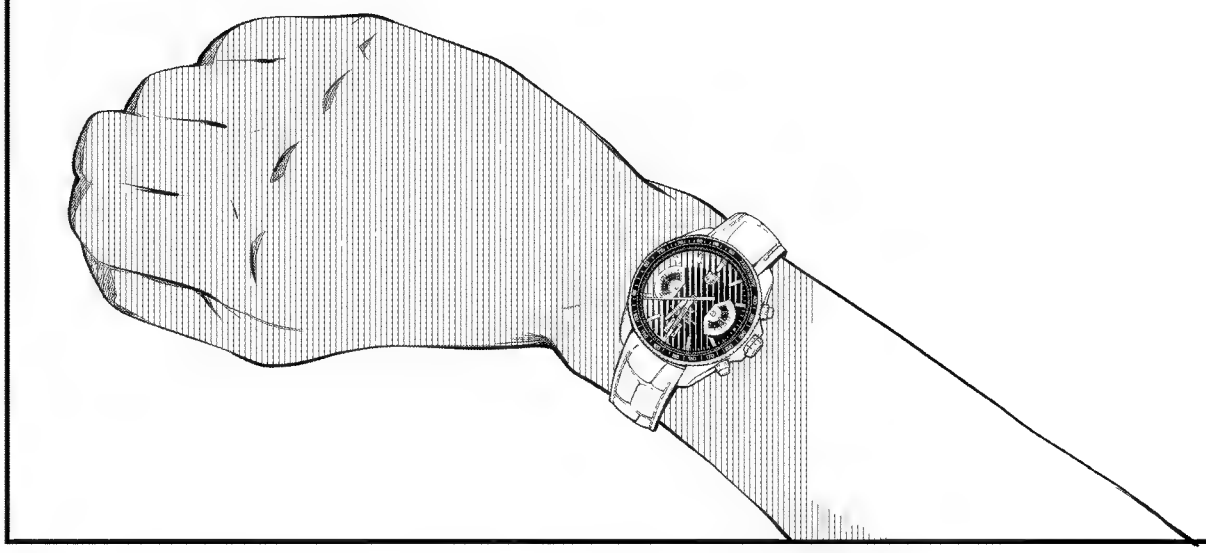
My butt kinda hurts...

WHOOPS, I FELL RIGHT ON YOUR FACE! ARE YOU OKAY, KOYOMI?

FSSSHHH

Heh heh.

Then again, choosing not to avoid this is a way of showing an older brother's kindness.



A day that would surely become one...

...worth remembering.

Tuesday, June 13th. 6:30 PM.

Oh!

Big Brother Koyomi!

...Big Brother Koyomi.

I was waiting for you...

"/ SHF

"/ SHF

What're you doing here?

Sen-goku?!

U-Um ...

Well ...

O-Oh, just give me five seconds ...

Thank goodness he's here...

はぁ SIGH

Oh.

Don't tell me you were waiting here since middle school got out.

What? No, that's not it.

I didn't go to school today. I felt kind of sleepy.

Sorry, I was super busy preparing for the cultural festival this weekend.

Um... So wait... Doesn't that mean I made you wait for more than two hours?

N-No...

...

That line on its own makes her sound like...

...she's the carefree princess of some tropical island.

I started waiting at around two, so it's been more than four hours...

WHAT ARE YOU, STUPID?!

I'm sorry for being stupid...

...

Um... Well!

I-I just felt like... I had to give you my proper thanks!

I wanted to so much... that I could hardly contain myself...

...That's the first time I've gotten an apology like that!

Well, I mean ...

It's not like... I'm mad or anything...

In that case, you should be thanking Kanbaru more than anyone.

There aren't many people like her out there.

Y... Yes...

I thought so, too, so I tried to talk to her, but...

30 minutes ago

BOOM

110

PTT

Oh, yeah... Classic Kanbaru.

So she didn't notice you?

She must've had some urgent business ...

GWOOSH

WE BUY

TWING

I'm sure she had some kind of terribly fantastic reason, of course—like needing to binge on a mountain of BL comics she splurged on yesterday because she can't hold back her love for every pairing under the sun...

I thought she might run me over...

Yeah.

I wouldn't dare call out to Kanbaru while she's speeding off somewhere.

WHY WOULD YOU COMPARE SOMETHING SHE DID TO A SPECIAL ATTACK USED BY PRINCE YAMATO, ONE OF THE MAIN CHARACTERS IN *BIKKURIMAN*, OF ALL THINGS?!

NOT ONLY ARE YOU MAKING THE SITUATION HARDER TO UNDERSTAND, YOU'RE FORCING MY RETORT TO ESSENTIALLY BE STRAIGHT COMMENTARY!!

Yes.

It was as if she was using *takkyudo*.

Still... You know a lot about *Bikkuriman.*

Hmph. Really? It appears as though she underestimated my abilities as the designated quipper here...

SHOCK

ビックリ...

I didn't think you'd get it.

Yes...

You could have at least compared it to point stepping.

Even so, *takkyudo* is a tough one.

Ah, I see...

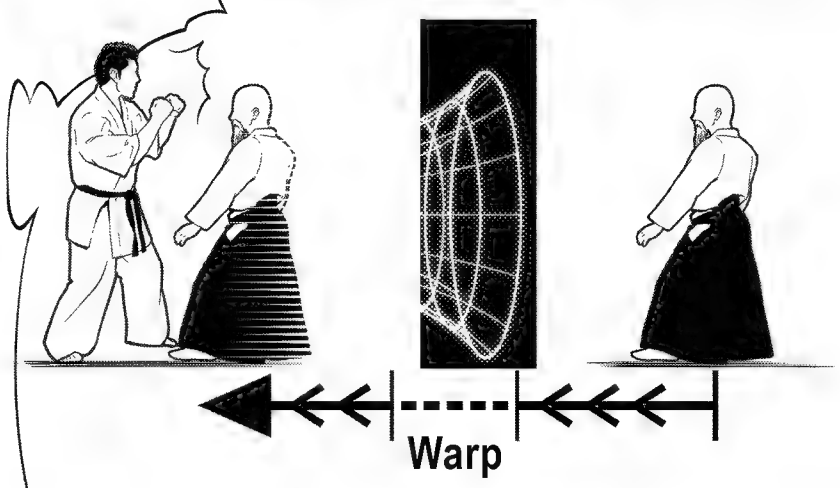
I saw it online.

DON'T LUMP TOGETHER ONE OF THE MOST CLOSELY GUARDED SECRETS IN ALL OF MARTIAL ARTS AND A BASIC ART TECHNIQUE!!

NOT ONE BIT!

[Point Stepping]

A method of stepping that makes it impossible to read one's motion. A technique that allows you to move from one point to another, closing a long distance.



Oh, isn't that where you draw things bigger when they're close to you and smaller when they're far away?

Point stepping...?

Point Perspective

...Did I make her cry...?

Ack.

SPIN

?!!

BIG BROTHER KOYOMI,

YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN A FUNNY GUY.

Oh, right.

This must be your first time at a high school, right?

Want to take a peek inside, then?

Hm?

Is it... okay?

Um... Yes.

...

By the way...

What's with that recorder?

Hm?

My teacher said... to never let go of it whenever I go somewhere dangerous...

WHAT KIND OF TEACHER IS THAT?!

And to blow it with all my strength if I feel like I'm in danger.

Could this teacher have been talking about a safety whistle...?

O—

Oh...

HOLD ON, HOLD ON! I DIDN'T EXACTLY SACRIFICE MY LIFE TO SAVE YOU! LOOK, I'M ALIVE RIGHT NOW!

AND WAIT, DO YOU REALLY FEEL LIKE YOUR LIFE IS IN DANGER JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE AT A HIGH SCHOOL?!

You saved my life at the cost of your own...

So I need to value and protect my life...

Sengoku's snake was exorcised by the talisman that Oshino gave me, so...

Not to mention that, as usual, I didn't do anything to help.

SHIIINE

I'll send your thanks along to Oshino.

I get the feeling ...

...that his talisman was something pretty amazing— like on the level of one of Doraemon's secret gadgets ...

That's right.

I need to thank Oshino.

Your come-backs are always so timely and precise ...

Yes ...

Like the Genius Helmet and Technology Gloves.

AGAIN, WHY GO OUT OF YOUR WAY TO CHOOSE OBSCURE ONES THAT ONLY EVER APPEARED IN THE THEATRICAL FEATURES FOR YOUR COMPARISON?!

...couldn't remember her.

Back then, I...

Hunh...

Nadeko Sengoku was basically a stranger because I hardly remembered her.

And that's exactly what made her snake aberration so important to me.

I never would have thought about what it means to save someone,

and none of the things any of them said to me would have hit as hard as they did.

...like Senjogahara, or Kanbaru, or one of my sisters, I doubt I ever would have had the option to *not* save them.

If that curse had been laid on someone closer to me...

There's a wall of irresponsi-bility, you see.

Well...

...when it's beyond my grasp and I can't be responsible for it...

If he's saying not to reach for some-thing...

...that just means I need to become someone who can be responsible.

I...

...died once during spring break.

And ever since, that hell *had* continued on...

That's right.

The darkness I thought would go on forever...

...is, as of today, June 13th...

...something in my past.

An expert on aberrations...

...Huh.

What is it?

Oh.

By the way, Big Brother Koyomi...

People say that in the movie versions of *Doraemon*, Gian suddenly becomes a weirdly grownup and good-natured character, but shouldn't they be saying that about Nobita more than anyone?

WHERE DID THAT NONSENSE QUESTION EVEN COME FROM?!

Huh? But...

I don't feel like I spoke out of context.

IT'S TRUE THAT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT *DORAEMON*, BUT IT FEELS LIKE A WHOLE WEEK HAS PASSED SINCE THEN!

WHY WOULD YOU GO INTO GREATER DEPTH ABOUT THE *DORAEMON* MOVIES NOW, ANYWAY?!

WAIT, WHY ARE WE GOING ON ABOUT THIS?!

...

I'm sorry.

...No, It's not anything you need to apologize for.

It's only Suneo.

He's the only one who never experiences any growth, no matter what.

True.

Given his positioning as the local bully's sidekick, it'd be hard for him to change, even in a negative direction.

If that's the case, you ought to be saying sorry a lot more.

When I said "by the way," I actually wasn't planning on talking about *Doraemon*.

I wanted to see how far you'd go making retorts, and I just...

...got carried away.

Look at this introverted girl having her fun.

Oh? So now you're the one testing me?

About last night...

What is it?

Okay.

By the way, Big Brother Koyomi.

It's just not enough for me...

If it were Hachikuji, she might have gone beyond repetition and even come up with something snappy to turn the tables...

It seems Sengoku doesn't know that repetition is key to playing the fool in a comedy duo...

Mmgh...

...

She was glaring like crazy at you and Kanbaru?
Shinobu ?

But she didn't look at me and Miss Kanbaru...

...like she looked at you and Mister Oshino, I think.

It felt like she hated us.

You said that's how she is, right?

"That girl glares at everyone."

Oh ...

I'm sensitive to the way people look at me, so... I can tell.

EYES!! 眼

...

Though she was more straight-forward about it, telling me, "I was just challenged to a battle"...

I feel like Senjogahara said something similar in the past...

You know ...

I know she's like that now, but at the end of the day, her true nature is that...

...of an aberration.

She's a vampire.

She doesn't have any interest in humans to begin with.

Still...

That doesn't make any sense.

That it's like what we feel when we look at ants.

That they can't even discern the difference between individual humans.

Even Oshino said the same thing.

A lot happened.

She used to talk a bunch, you know. But...

Eh...

You're not going to ask Shinobu directly?

What...?

Hmm... Maybe I'll try asking Oshino about it next time I see him.

What you saw is like a husk of her former self.

I haven't heard her voice in over two months.

Now she's closed her heart off and locked it tight.

I see...

...

...Huh?

No reaction, huh...

I thought she'd be more... annoyed or something.

But Big Brother Koyomi... Isn't it her fault that you're—

No, she didn't do anything wrong.

It's my fault. And mine alone.

I'm the perpe-trator.

But ...

You're the victim here, so—

And anyway, it'd be a mistake to hold aberrations accountable for anything.

All they do is *exist as they are*...

What they're doing is the exact same as us waking up in the morning, eating breakfast, and going to school.

I really am when it comes to Shinobu.

I'm a bigger perpetrator than you were a victim of that snake aberration.

She's an aberration who suffered horribly because of a human like me.

Her grievances.

Her hatred.

She must have more than any one person can handle—and yet...

I really do think that Shinobu is impressive.

There must be so many things she wants to say—but she's holding it all in.

...

...

...

Wh...

What is it?

HISSSSS

THWOAP

Um ...

...

I was just going to take a cicada husk off your head...

He put it there.

ZSSSSHHH

PLIP

PLOK PLOK
トコトコトコトコ

Left hand

...

?

?!

...?

Right hand

ZSSSHHH

チョコ チョコ
CHAKK
チョコ CHAKK
チョコ
チョコ
CHAKK
CHAKK
チョコ CHAKK

...!

It—!

It's not like—I'm against it or anything.

It's just... your arm seems to have healed, and...

Um.

Well... You see...

If...

If it were darker out, then— I could help you with your...

rehab.

A- Any time ...

... you ...

... want ...

But...

Wh... What? I have no idea what she's talking about.

The memories of my right hand's cells are trying to tell me something...

Some- thing... very import- ant...!!

Oh.

N-Now that I think about it, Big Brother Koyomi.

...Wh... What now?!

TWITCH

SWISH

SWISH

Ummm... Are you... going all the way there just to say thanks?

Yeah. I also have... some business to take care of...

Huh? Yeah.

Do you know where Miss Kanbaru's home is?

Could you tell me the address?

What ...?

It's that... far?

It'll be dark by the time you get there.

Far out towards the mountains. How are you getting there? By bus?

You know it's pretty far, right?

If you want, I can handle any business you have with her.

I should be meeting her tomorrow, anyway.

...

Then —

Could you, please? I think it'd be faster that way, anyway...

Here.

I'd like you to give this to Miss Kanbaru.

RUSTLE

Volleyball Shorts
(a.k.a. Gym Shorts):
A type of women's athletic wear. Worn on the lower half of the body.

School Swimsuit:
A popular name for a swimsuit used during swimming physical education classes in Japanese schools.

I made sure to wash them, so they should be clean...

A guy receiving gym shorts and a school swimsuit from a middle school girl inside his own high school...

What a high bar!

Now *this* is a trial.

...

O-Okay ... I'll hold onto these...

If anyone I knew saw this, my nickname would surely become...

...Koyomi Volleyball Shorts School Swimsuit!!

They stretch ?!!

Urk!

PWUHEEEEEE

ピッ

JOLT

ピッ

ピッ

LIGHTNING-QUICK ESCAPE

E... Excuse me!

PWEEEEOOOKK

DAAASH

That... was kind of hurtful, I think ...

Do I look that scary?

Sorry, Hane-kawa.

Sengoku's so shy that she'd bring her own bag to the grocery store because she's too scared to answer a clerk when she gets asked "paper or plastic," so...

A date that should be a memora-ble one.

June 13th, the day my hell ends.

You said you had some-thing import-ant to do today, right...? So this is what it was?

Koyomi Volley-ball Shorts School Swim-suit.

No.

—And don't read people's minds, you genius.

But before that...

...I suppose I need to talk about it.

About Hane-kawa.

About Shino-bu.

About the day that my personal hell began.

BAKEMONOGATARI

0 0: Koyomi Vamp

Currently known as— Shinobu Oshino.

Kiss-Shot Acerola-Orion Heart-Under-Blade.

It all happened during spring break.

I was attacked by a vampire.

I must have had bad luck.

But ...

even if someone else were to have the same bad luck as me, the idea of them meeting the same fate that I did...

...doesn't seem very likely to me.

KLANG

Awright!

One more!

KLINK

...

In the end,

it happened because I, Koyomi Araragi, am who I am.

...That's how I see this chain of events.

—You know, Araragi.

You've been acting more and more...

...like a Chad lately.

...

A Chad?

...

What's that?

But I don't know...

...where the incident began or where it ended.

Actually, to start with—if I look at things from a different perspective...

YOU REALLY KNOW EVERYTHING!

HASN'T THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY JUST STARTED?!

WHY DO YOU KNOW ABOUT FOREIGN WORDS FROM THE FUTURE?!

Everyone in America's saying it in 2019.

AND YOU KNOW ABOUT THE FUTURE!!

Not everything. I just know what I know.

Want to hear an interesting rumor going around? People are saying that ...

The person at the center of it all...

...might not have been me— or even Kiss-Shot.

You could say it was Hanekawa.

"Koyomi Araragi is having a bad influence on Senjogahara."

"Senjogahara's been acting weird ever since she got close to Araragi."

I will never be able to know what it all meant.

There's nothing inter-esting about that.

In the end, I can only talk about it from my own perspec-tive.

And I don't think you should be talking to cute middle school girls on school grounds.

You can't just let people besmirch her honor by saying that dating a guy has ruined her.

I don't change, after all.

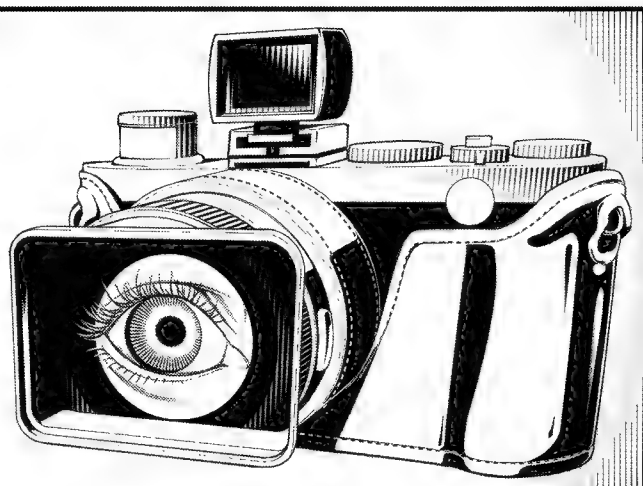
Me? I don't think so. And even if they were, I doubt they'd say it to my face.

What about you, Hanekawa...? Are people saying things about you?

...Of course I shouldn't be.

But...

...but an under-standing.



What I have is not the truth...

By the way, Araragi ...

Those volleyball shorts and that school swimsuit you've been holding onto like treasures— do you think you could at least put them away in your bag?

HUH?! WHAT'S WITH THAT LOOK?!

GRRRIP

ゲゲゲゲ...

IT'S NOT RIGHT!!

Something that only holds meaning for the observer. Something whose meaning changes depending on the observer. Something whose meaning cannot be agreed upon by its observers.

Er...

Um.

Go ... Go-ing out ...

Mutter Mutter

Great... I can't even get it out.

Hanekawa always seems to have an opinion when it comes to romance, but...

You know...

Hey, Hanekawa... Are you... going ou...

...does she have her own special someone...?

Ah!

Ow ...!!

Going...out to see that Doraemon feature where they go to the moon...?

?!

Are you okay?

Another head-ache?

Yes. ...I'm fine.

This kind of thing should go away if I just head home and study.

You worry too much.

See you later.

What if it's some kind of really bad disease or something?

You said you've been getting them a lot recently.

I still have some things left to prepare for the cultural festival.

PSSHT

SHH

SHHR

SHHR

SHH

Whoops.

Spring break.

Right here.

On this field.

We wounded one another.

WE
...

Eh, it's fine. Really. I was on the other side of the net, after all...

ARE VERY SOR-RYYYY !!

You idiot!! Keep your head down!!

That's Mister Araragi right there!!!

THAT WAS WILD...

PHEW

Was there an issue lately with someone getting hit by a ball or something...?

...Why would they give me such an absurdly proper apology ?

This preamble has gotten quite long.

But I was just such a woefully unsuitable observer.

—And as always, I was a fool.

That's why I've been dragging out this seemingly plausible intro.

doing this—

I'm revealing my weakness by saying this, but I don't even know if I have the confidence to finish telling this tale.

But first—

let me tell you this in advance.

This tale of wounds surrounding a vampire...

BWOOOOOSH

...has an unhappy ending.

March 25th

FLAP FLAP FLAP FLAP FLAPP

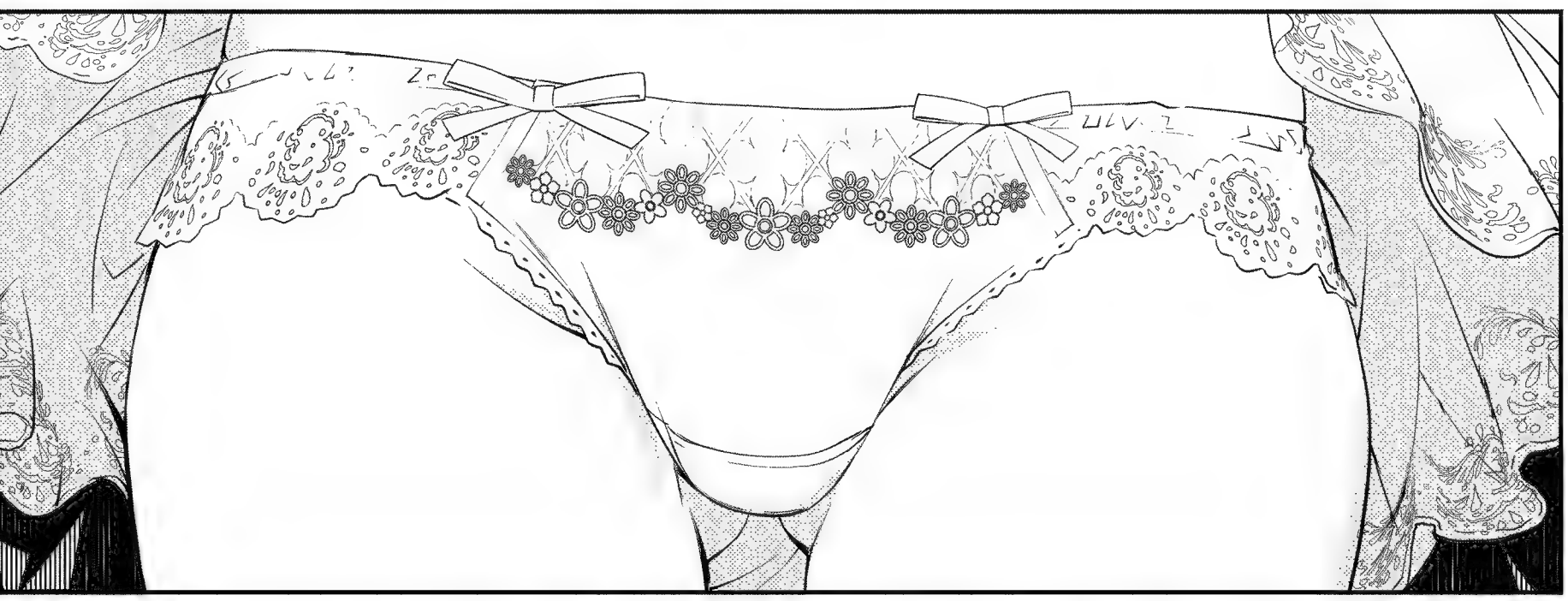
...with everyone becoming miserable.

It concludes ...

ZSSHH

FWOOF

BAM



hey were certainly
f elegant undergarments that refused to
elease one's gaze once a pair of eyes was attracted
o them. They were a tidy and pure whit
vas not as if they were suggestively shaped
act, they seemed to be on the high
end of the surface area s
rum. A wide article, made of th
cloth—by no means la
civious, and in fact, if one
were to speak of them in that
way, it would be reasonable
o call them demure
hey were white it
zzli

f the
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icate en
ered pattern
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ern, with its bilater
ymmetry, acted t
ring a sublime balanc
o the piece as a whole
nd toward the top-cente
f the embroidery sa
all ribbon. This one
orked to further ce

What's more, visibl
above that sm
ribbon was he
abdomen an
cute belly butt
Yes, her skirt had b
flipped so far up tha
those parts of her
were now immodestly
exposed. Had I wan
I could even have
nized the tails of
tucked into her

could appear so sala lous. T
irt was another fresh sight
ile I frequently caught sight o
ed to be inviolable, myste-
s—but I now felt as though, for
stood the structure of this

never
new t
he shirt
f a blous
ning of a
my eyes.
irts, they
ous exis-

only the front sect
her skirt was flipped. Next
er pure-white undergarme
stood something else so proudly
white it was as if the two were in
competition: her thighs, which
had no small amount of meat o
hem. Sitting behind the two, h
vy-blue skirt placed the

This was it.
The moment of first contact between me and Tsubasa Hanekawa.
could say her
skir longer tha
the averag rl's, was n
serving like a blackout c
ccentuate a graceful w
n the skirt's pleats came across
like they might be made of fine
velvet. And when coupled with th
pose of hers, her hands joined behind
her head, it practically seemed as if she was
off her vaunted underwear
was she appeared

EH
HEH
HEH.

WEH
HEH?
HEH.

Hurk
!

SHINE

INTEL
!
INSIDE
!!

INTEL
!
INSIDE!!

Now saving to hard drive...

TKKA TKKA TKKA TKKA TKKA TKKA TKKA

I don't know what to say.

THP

THP

THP

For something that's meant to hide what you don't want seen, skirts sure are low security.

Maybe I really do need a pair of bike shorts as a firewall of sorts...

What does that make me, a virus?

...Wh... Who knows?

Maybe they should add a corollary. "The front of your skirt only gets flipped when your hands are behind you."

I don't know it...

...

Uh... Yeah.

That one ...

You know, the one about toast always falling to the floor butter-side down?

A little while back, people liked talking about Murphy's Law.

I almost feel like I'm being attacked ...

This is so awkward ...

What made her decide to start talking to me?

Um ...

I could see them so clearly it was ridiculous.

This is, of course, another lie.

W-Well ...

It may be a lie to say I didn't see them, but I couldn't see them very well because they were obscured by shadows.

Don't worry.

SO?

THAT

IS

Oh, really? You can't?

I really do wish I could say that to you, but I simply cannot tell you anything but the truth.

Well... I...

As a girl, it would make me feel much more at ease if you just said you got a good look at them if you really did.

Words from a man spewing nothing but lies all this time.

Yeah. It's too bad I can't make you feel at ease.

If only I *could* lie to you.

...giving a precise description of what was under my skirt, down to the fine details—but maybe that's all in my head?

...you just spent about six pages...

It kind of felt like...

Well...

I should get going.

This, technically, is not a lie.

Up until now, I was using my words as my brush to paint a portrait of a richly emotional and stunningly beautiful scene.

Yup, all in your head. Just all up in there.

And wait, she even has my name down?

She's chasing after me, of all things?

You're a fast walker, Araragi.

Wait up.

Well, Araragi, you might not know about someone like me, but you're pretty famous.

The same school?

It's not like we're in the same class...

Of course I know it. We go to the same school, don't we?

What?

...Why do you know my name?

WHOA. WOW.

Tsubasa Hanekawa, right?

...

You're... Hanekawa.

Huh?

Me?!

I heard about you from an alien friend.

There isn't a single person in this school who doesn't know the name Hanekawa.

You're the girl who, during final exams of the first trimester of our second year, got only one wrong answer—on a fill-in-the-blank question—across every subject, including health and PE as well as art.

You know the name of a run-of-the-mill student like me?

That's amazing, Araragi.

You're always alone, so I had the impression that you lived independently in a world apart from everyone else.

You don't actually think I'm that cool, do you?

ASK ABOUT THE ALIEN BIT FIRST!

What?

You have friends, Araragi?

KLANG KLANG KLANG KLANG KLANG KLANG KLANG KLANG KLANG

So she does seem to know about me.

But not too much about me.

Well, you're right that I don't have any friends.

Which makes you so famous that even a friendless loser knows who you are.

I don't like jokes like that. Please don't make fun of me.

Oh, stop it, Araragi.

WHRRRRRRR

KTUNK KTUNK KTUNK KTUNK

For the first time...

Hanekawa looked a little bothered.

...Oh.

Hanekawa—a woman who, with only an embarrassed smile, quickly shrugged off the contents of her skirt being exposed for the world to see.

Her.

The contents of our conversation didn't matter to me.

Completely unable to understand why Hanekawa would follow me, I was too single-mindedly focused on how I'd escape.

Hey, Araragi?

What is it?

I sensed something was off about Hanekawa at the time, and I should've taken that feeling more seriously.

Thinking back on it now,

Do you believe in vampires?

She must be attempting to bring up a bizarre subject in order to overwrite and erase the data of her panties from my mental hard drive.

Well, people have been talking lately.

She's making it seem as if she's not bothered ...

Oh... I get it...

...

What about vampires?

Huh ?!

P 24h

MONTHLY PARKING My Town Inc.

MONTHLY PARKING My Town Inc.

500円

M8815

They say ...

...there's a vampire here in town now.

Why would there be a vampire in a place like this?

It seems made-up. Or kinda cheap, I guess.

Nice try, goody-two-shoes.

But you're not erasing my data with something like that.

Actually, I'm not letting it get erased no matter what!!

I think it's a ridiculous rumor, too.

But there's specific and detailed eyewitness testimony.

They say she's blonde and incredibly beautiful.

And that she has no shadow.

Hmm... Specific, huh.

KREAK

And that's why you shouldn't walk around alone at night.

KREEAK

Per-
sonal-
ly,

if there really is a vampire,

I'd like to meet her.

I think it'd be neat if someone like that existed— some being who was greater than humans...

...

You know she'd suck your blood... and kill you, right?

Hmm ... Yes, you're right.

Maybe it's not accurate to say that I want to meet her.

It might be more correct to say... I'd like to believe in her.

...where's the reward other-wise?

Because in so many ways...

Gotta love it.

Wait, I guess I was the one talking about aliens.

Like she's an alien or a vampire.

She's speaking in Japanese, but it feels like I'm hearing someone talk in a completely different, unknown language ...

This girl's bad news ...

In fact, I didn't even know what she was trying to say.

To be honest, I had no idea what Hanekawa was saying.

Did that even have anything to do with my question ...?

Whoops!

Oh, dear me.

My tongue slipped, and I feel like I ended up saying something that didn't make much sense just now.

You know, Araragi, you're surprisingly easy to talk to.

Because it would lower my intensity as a human.

I find it strange that you don't have any friends when you're this easy to talk to. Why don't you make some?

...

Sorry.

I don't really understand ...

Er... Well, you know, it's like...

...But you'd have fun when your friends have fun, and you'd be happy when your friends are happy, so it's not all about becoming weaker, is it? You might gain more weak points, but you'd gain advantages, too.

To put it another way, if I had friends, I'd have to start worrying about them, right? If those friends got hurt, I'd feel hurt too, and if they felt sad, I'd also feel sad. You end up with more weak points, so to speak. I think that's the same as becoming weaker as a person.

No.

I'd feel envious when my friends were having fun...

...and jealous when they were happy.

Leave me alone.

8-20

How petty of you.

...

Do you have a smartphone, Araragi?

...

...Well, yeah. Of course.

Wow. It's the latest model.

...So that's what she's doing...

So she just wanted to make sure that I didn't take any photos of her panties...

That's a model student for you. Her mind runs at a mile a minute.

No offending pics, right?

TOO BAD FOR YOU.

Name

Favorite

Last

Hanekawa

First

Tsubasa

Last Furigana

Hanekawa

First Furigana

Tsubasa

Edit

Phone

080

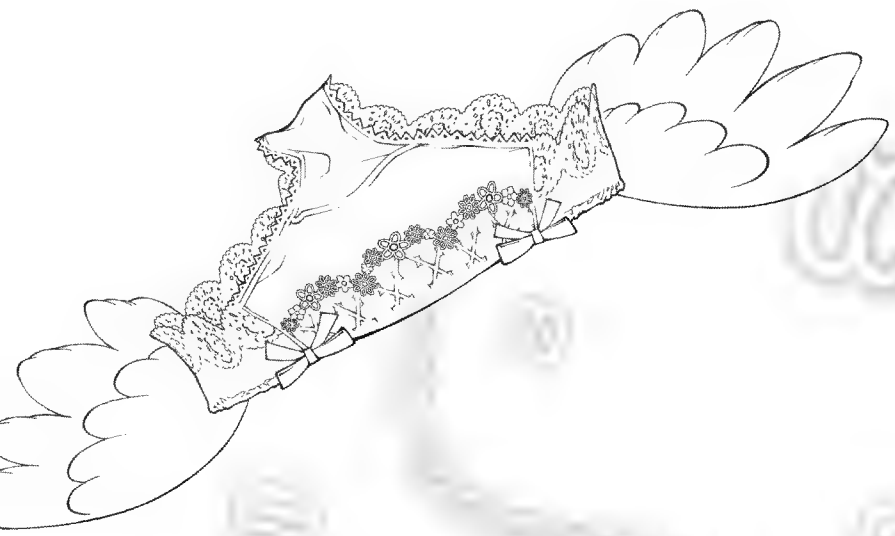
LOOKS LIKE YOU JUST MADE A FRIEND! ♡

Ah, yes.

This is why...

...I want to become a plant.

BAKEMONOGATARI



Vfhh!

Fhh!

Fwooh!

That night...

Fhh!

Fhh!

Fhh!

Fhh!

SHNK

SHNK

SHNK

SHNK

SHNK

...I couldn't get her panties out of my head.

Even after we parted ways...

Rear-side details have been extrapolated.

I was certain we talked about all kinds of things.

But it was her panties that had made the strongest impression on me. What should I make of that?

She's a good person, though!

Hane-kawa's a good person, and yet...!

It would feel rude to her—or maybe even like I'd be wronging her—if I continued on like this.

Deleting the memory may have been impossible, but it seemed like I could maybe overwrite it with something else.

Overwrite

BOOKS / MAGAZINES
NAOETSU BOOKS
COIN LAUNDRY

BEEP

Free wrapping for presents.
Just ask an employee!

New Research: Chemistry I/II Suzuki/Kondo

In other words, by loading a dirty magazine into my memory, I could attempt to cloud the images I saw in my mind and cause the impression she'd made on me to fade.

That'll be ¥2,500...

It was a temporary measure meant to escape from the indescribable sense of guilt I felt.

Lentai Max
Vol.83
Zoom in Panty
A second skin encasing your body!
Tales of an amateur girl's sexual awakening: Haruko's story
The extreme sexual circumstances of an amateur girl: Yuki's story
The beautiful nun: Ami Namu
The pleasure of NEAR-SUFFOCATION
This curvy girl's sexy body
A collection of full-body tights

THWAP

SWOOP

This too.

I concluded that this dirty magazine would be the optimal choice.

And... thanks to my painstaking prior research—

So the plan was to make it one among many—that should help put me at ease.

My first ever live panty shot... The fact that it was the only one is what made it difficult.

This was the true reason I bought this ultra-niche book for freaks.

It was all for the short, five-page special that began on page 63.

For All Glasses-Wearers

Class President Special

...taken off ...ull-body tights, ...now she's showing ...f her underwear after school.

I don't see how an outside observer could ever figure it out.

FSSSHHH

Even if my little sisters somehow manage to discover this, they'll never figure out my true intentions.

KREAK

POP

KRSH

This is what it means to make the perfect decision.

Yes, it's the perfect decoy.

It was quite a burden on my wallet,

but I couldn't allow myself to keep having such indecent thoughts about Hanekawa.

You know... that really isn't fair.

I mean... I doubt a girl would feel this way if she saw a boy's underwear, right?

This is why...

...I want to become a plant.

I wouldn't have to think anything. I wouldn't have to move.

It's not fair.

The guilt would kill me at this rate.

People talk about dying of boredom, but guilt can kill you, too.

Too bad for you. Looks like...

...you just made a friend.

Name

Last

Hanekawa

First

Tsubasa

Last Furigana

Hanekawa

First Furigana

Tsubasa

Edit

Phone

Some-
times,

I just
don't
get it.

It's
not
like
...

...I need
one or
any-
thing...

TABACCO

GIFTS

Is that
just me
making
excuses
for not
having
friends?

But...

I never
think
about
wanting
to have
friends.

Is it
just
self-
defense
?

Residential parking exempted

30

Come to think of it—how long have I been like this...?

I want to say I played well with others in middle school...

I went for an elite high school and accidentally got in—but I couldn't keep up.

I didn't see things in the ways those around me did. I failed... and ruined my standing.

Weren't there still plenty of oppor-tunities to get a fresh start?

But...I wonder ...

I was the one to reject them— no one else.

I've even seen kids who barely ever talk with anyone else.

People without friends can just hang out with other friendless people.

You can still get by without friends, after all.

That's just one way to do things.

You can totally live your life that way.

BWOOF

Maybe ...

KREEAK

KREEAK

...it was because I was thinking about those things more than I usually would.

Or maybe ...

KREEAK

...it was because I thought I couldn't let myself get into a traffic accident while I had a dirty magazine on me.

KREEEAK

THNK

WHOOSH

TOBACCO

SKREE

But I chose ...

...a path I don't normally take. One that had no signs of people around.

KRAK

SKRR

SKRR

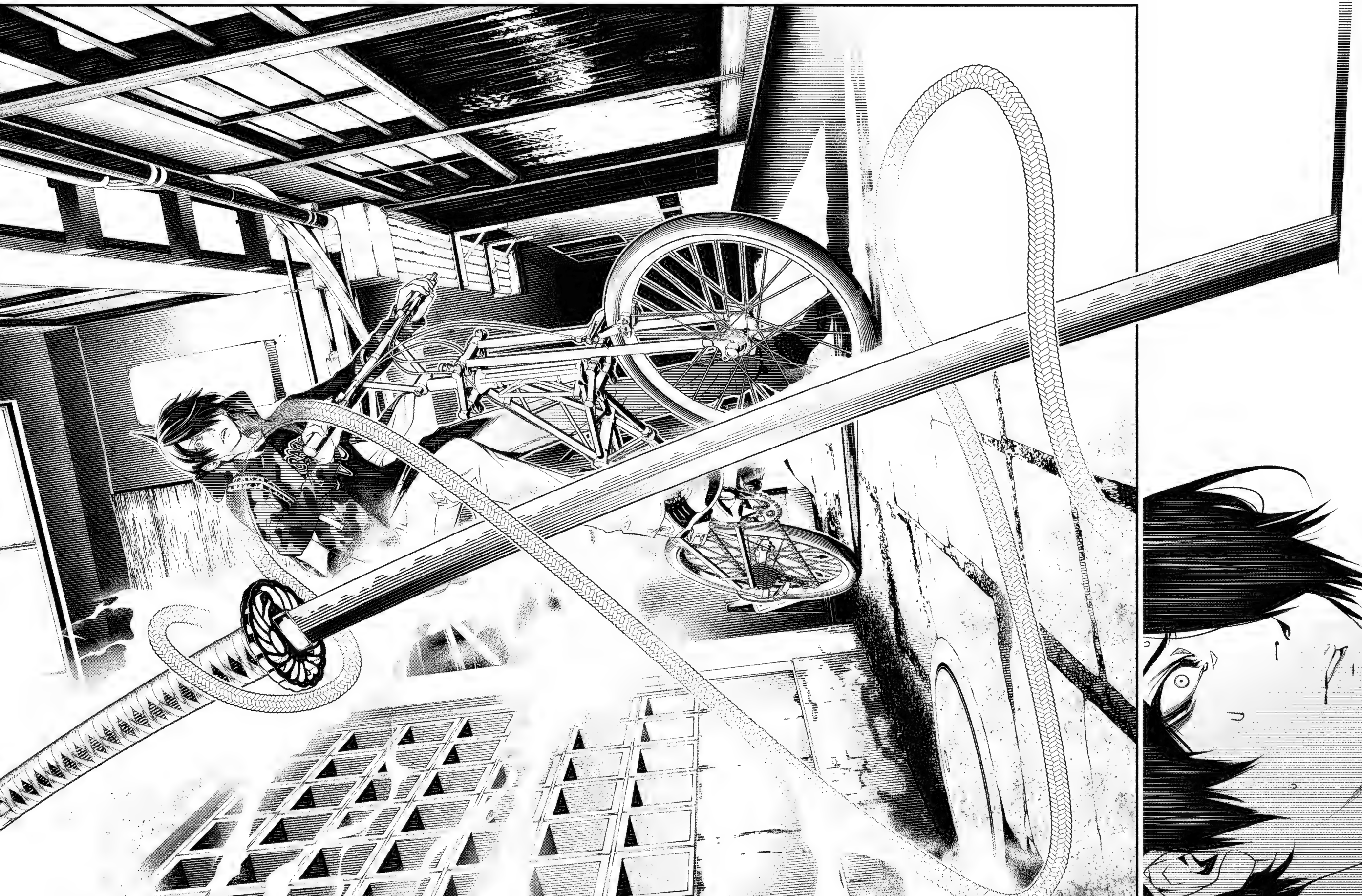
SKRR

SKRR

SKRR

SKRR

ZSSH



Ye.

Hail...
ye there.
Aye, ye.
Approach
me.
Give me thy
blood.

...with thy body's worth.

For the time being...I will be tided over...

Why dost thou dally, laggard?

Come thee hither forthright.

Make haste ...

This was it.

Blood sucking

TH-WUMP

TH-WUMP

My moment of first contact ...

A piddling human such as thou should be honored to become my flesh and blood.

...Kiss-Shot Acerola-Orion Heart-Under-Blade.

Vampire

...with the iron-blooded, hot-blooded, yet cold-blooded vampire...

It shall be...
...thy privilege to aid me.
There she appeared before me.
And from the very beginning, she was noble, arrogant, and beautiful—
with her form covered in wounds.
I would only go on to wound her further, and I, too, would be wounded...
But she looked to me so striking that it overpowered any such premonition.
H...

HA-
NE-
KA-
WA'S
PANT-
IES
!!!

Thou hast the privilege of rescuing me. Is there any greater honor?

Present me with thy neck, and I shall do the rest.

HANE-KAWA'S PANTIES !!!

?!!

Thou
...

Things like that don't exist.

There's no vampire here.

I saw nothing! I heard nothing.

Denying

reality

OVER-
WRITE
MY
MEMO-
RIES!!

HANE-
KAWA'S
PANTIES
!!!!

Continued in Volume 9

Next Volume Preview
BAKEMONOGATARI 9
Koyomi has encountered a wounded, beautiful vampire.
Prepared for the end, he offers her his everything...
...but what comes into view is the beginning that lies ahead.
Koyomi Vamp
COMING JUNE 2021!

BAKEMONOGATARI (manga) 8

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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First published in Japan in 2020 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.
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English digital edition published by Kodansha USA Publishing, LLC, New York.

www.kodanshacomics.com

ISBN: 9781636991238

Digital Edition: 1.0.0

Editing: Ajani Oloye
Translation: Ko Ransom
Production: Grace Lu
Hiroko Mizuno